## MINUTES OF MEETING State Board of Education October 17, 2007

The meeting of the Board of Education was held telephonically on October 17, 2007. The origination site was the State Board of Education Conference Room, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa. Board members Gene Vincent, Rosie Hussey, Sister Jude Fitzpatrick, Brian Gentry, and Mary Jean Montgomery participated electronically and Max Phillips was present at the origination site. Absent: Charlie Edwards, Wayne Kobberdahl, and Kameron Dodge. Also present were staff members Director Judy Jeffrey, Gail Sullivan, Carol Greta, Kevin Fangman, Roger Stirler, Wilma Gajdel, Tom Cooley, Su McCurdy, Del Hoover, Barb Byrd, Elaine Watkins-Miller, Jim Addy (telephonically) and Beverlee Adams. Others present were Shawn Snyder, Legislative Services Agency and Superintendent Bob McCurdy (telephonically).

President Gene Vincent called the meeting to order.

The agenda was approved as written.

## **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## Phase II Fiscal Review and Accreditation Visit

Jim Addy, Administrator, Division of School Support and Information, reviewed the action taken by the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) at their September 10, 2007 meeting. The SBRC voted unanimously to recommend to the State Board that the Department of Education send an accreditation team to the Russell Community School District for an on-site fiscal review in conjunction with a Phase II accreditation visit. The action was taken pursuant to Iowa Code section 256.11, subsection 10 and House File 317 that states if a school district exceeds its authorized budget or carries a negative unspent balance for two or more consecutive years, the Committee may recommend that the department implement a Phase II on-site visit to conduct a fiscal review pursuant to section 256.11, subsection 10, paragraph "e."

Kevin Fangman, Administrator, Division of PK-12 Education, provided a chart on the Phase II actions and responsibilities and explained the process and timeline. Fangman also reviewed the State Board's responsibility related to Phase II visits and accreditation of school districts.

Carol Greta, Legal Counsel, was present to respond to any questions the Board might have.

Mary Jean Montgomery asked if a response had been received from the Russell Community School District regarding this proposed action. Administrator Fangman indicated that no response had been received from the district.

Board member, Rosie Hussey, requested information on the School Budget Review Committee membership.

Brian Gentry asked if the Russell Community School District had requested assistance from the Department to provide direction in correcting their situation. Director Jeffrey indicated that they had not requested assistance as the District felt they were doing an adequate job.

Superintendent Bob McCurdy, Russell Community Schools, said he would welcome the Phase II visit.

After further Board discussion, the following action was taken:

**Motion:** Mary Jean Montgomery moved and Sister Jude Fitzpatrick seconded that the State Board direct the Department to initiate a Phase II Fiscal Review and Accreditation Visit at Russell Community School District.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

President Gene Vincent adjourned the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

Gene E. Vincent

President

Judy A. Jeffrey, Director and
Executive Officer